

# 5 March 2006

## Sunday

### READINGS

Psalm 103; Daniel 9:3-10; Hebrews 2:10-18; John 12:44-50

### DEVOTION

*“Praise the LORD, O my soul; all my inmost being, praise His holy name. Praise the LORD, O my soul, and forget not all His benefits.”* Psalm 103:1-2

One of the best ways to motivate and encourage others is to appreciate them. Words of thanks, reports of their “shining moments” of excellence, and remembering them in thought and word are powerful tools to give feedback to those who help us and serve with us.

Words of appreciation and thanks are all too rare in our culture, and far too precious to forget. How often have we felt offended that bosses and coworkers forgot “a simple thank-you,” leaving us empty and angry? Yet we forget others’ efforts daily, acting in ignorant haste, forgetting thanks and taking them for granted.

Another powerful tool for feedback is to praise others in public. Those we truly appreciate, we remember in speeches and reports. How would our fellow workers react to seeing their name in print, attached to a glowing positive report? Awards and honors communicate thanks in a powerful way.

Perhaps the strongest appreciation we can show for others is to think of them often, and talk about them often. Married people often fall victim to the trap of speaking always about work, or the children, never remembering to mention their spouse in their daily conversation. And how blessed is the person who remembers to pray for us, to talk to God on our behalf? They are our best resource in tough times!

Prayer: “Gracious, powerful and awesome God, Lord of heaven and earth, teach me to be gracious and thankful to all who serve with me today. Grant me strength to praise those who serve well, to bless those whose efforts improve my life, and to bring all these whom You love before you continually, for their blessing and for Your love. Amen.

**CH (CPT) Rob Smith, 548th LTF**